

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 DRC-01 /044 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6194

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, OVIP, HO, US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT OF GENERAL LOPEZ TO FLORIDA

REF: STATE 128489 OF 7/2/73

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH COMATT 1/31/74 MR BILLY LADY, LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF HONDURAS WHO HAS BEEN WORKING LOCALLY ON BEHALF OF DELTONA CORP (3250 SW 3RD AVE., MIAMI, PHONE 305-854-111) IN ARRANGING LARGE FORESTRY INVESTMENT, SAID THAT HE AND DELTONA OFFICIALS MET WITH GENERAL LOPEZ JAN 25 AND HAD INVITED HIM TO VISIT DELTONA'S VARIOUS OPERATIONS IN FLORIDA. OLA RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO GO, LADY SAID, AND DELTONA PLANS TO SEND ITS PRIVATE JET TO PICK HIM UP. THE DEPARTURE DATE IS NOT YET SET BUT LADY SAID THEY HAD AGREED IT WOULD BE ON A FRIDAY, WITH RETURN ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAY. RICARDO REYES, THE MANAGER OF THE NEWLY-CREATED HONDURAN FORESTRY CORPORATION, COHDEFOR, WILL ALSO ACCOMPANY OLA.

2. LADY STATED THAT DELTONA IS WILLING TO AND CAN SUPPLY SECURITY FOR THE VISIT BUT THAT DELTONA OFFICIALS (I.E., MR JACK PEOPLES) WILL CONTACT DEPARTMENT REGARDING THIS MATTER.

3. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, DELTONA HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH GOH FOR SEVERAL MONTHS ON POSSIBLE
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LARGE CUTTING, SAWMILLING, EXPORTING OPERATION. LADY

SAID SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY WITH GOH IN LIGHT OF DECREE 103 WHEREBY DELTONA WOULD HANDLE MARKETING AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (ESPECIALLY IN GRADING AND SIZING OF WOOD FOR EXPORT) ON BEHALF OF GOH.

4. COMMENT: GENERAL LOPEZ WILL BE OUT OF HONDURAS FROM FEB 8 UNTIL ROUGHLY FEB 14 ON TWO TRIPS TO NICARAGUA AND PANAMA. WE DOUBT IF HE WOULD GO THIS WEEKEND, SO LIKELIHOOD IS THAT IT WILL HAPPEN AFTER MIDDLE OF MONTH. IN SPITE OF DELTONA'S PROFESSED INTENTION TO CONSULT DEPARTMENT, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT INSTEAD CALL DELTONA.

FYI: GENERAL LOPEZ DETESTS FUSSY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, BUT WE GATHER USG HAS SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE IN THIS FROM THE GENERAL'S FAIRLY FREQUENT PAST VISITS TO FLORIDA.
END FYI.
SANCHEZ

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